



# Department of Defense

## DIRECTIVE

November 26, 1990  
NUMBER 5118.5

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DA&M

SUBJECT: Defense Finance and Accounting Service

- References:
- (a) Title 10, United States Code
  - (b) DoD Directive 5118.3, "Comptroller of the Department of Defense, " **May** 24, 1988
  - (c)** DoD 7220. 9-M, "Department of Defense Accounting Manual, " October 1983, authorized by **DoD** Instruction 7220.9, October 22, 1981
  - (d) DoD 5025. 1-M, "Department of Defense Directives System Procedures," April 1981, authorized by **DoD** Directive 5025.1, December 23, 1988
  - (e) DoD Directive 7750.5, "Management and Control of Information Requirements," August 7, 1986

### A. PURPOSE

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense under provisions of reference (a), this Directive establishes the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (**DFAS**) as an Agency of the Department of Defense with responsibilities, functions, authorities, and relationships as outlined below.

### B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (**OSD**); the Military Departments; the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Joint Staff; the Unified and Specified Commands; the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (**IG, DoD**); the Defense Agencies; and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "**DoD** Components").

### C. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. The **DFAS** is established as an Agency of the Department of Defense under the direction, authority, and control of the Comptroller of the Department of Defense (C, **DoD**).

2. The **DFAS** shall consist of a Director, selected by the Secretary of Defense, and such subordinate organizational elements as are established by the Director within resources authorized by the Secretary of Defense.

3. Military personnel shall be assigned to the **DFAS** in accordance with approved authorizations and procedures for assignment to joint duty.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) , is the principal DoD executive for finance and accounting **requirements**, systems, and functions identified in DoD Directive **5118.3** (reference (b)), and shall:

- a. Organize, direct, and manage the DFAS and all assigned resources.
- b. Direct finance and accounting requirements, systems, and functions for all appropriated, nonappropriated, working **capital, revolving**, and trust fund activities, including-security assistance.
- c. Establish and enforce requirements, principles, standards, systems, procedures, and practices necessary to comply with finance and accounting statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the Department of Defense.
- d. Provide finance and accounting services for **DoD** Components and other Federal activities, as designated by the C, DoD.
- e. Direct the consolidation, standardization, **and** integration of finance and accounting requirements, functions, procedures, operations, and systems within the Department of Defense and ensure their proper **relationship** with other DoD functional areas (e.g., budget, personnel, logistics, acquisition, civil engineering, etc.).
- f. Execute statutory and regulatory financial **reporting** requirements and render financial statements.
- g. Serve as the proponent for civilian **professional** development in finance and accounting disciplines, and act as approval **authority** for competency standards and training requirements for **appropriate** military positions within the **DFAS**.
- h. Provide advice and recommendations to the C, **DoD**, on finance and accounting matters.
- i. Approve the establishment or maintenance of **all** finance and accounting activities independent of the **DFAS**.
- j. **Develop**, issue, and maintain DoD 7220.9-M (reference (c)), in **accordance** with **DoD 5025.1-M** (reference (d)), consistent **with** governing statutes, regulations, and policies.
- k. Perform other functions as the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the C, DoD, may prescribe.

2. The Comptroller of the **Department** of Defense (C, DoD)) shall provide guidance and direction to the Director, DFAS, on policies and procedures related to the development and operation of DFAS programs **and** systems.

3. The Heads of DoD **Components** shall:

a. Comply with the requirements, principles, standards, procedures, and practices issued pursuant to subsection D.I., above.

b. Obtain finance and accounting services from the **DFAS**.

c. Provide facilities, personnel, and other support and assistance required to accomplish DFAS objectives, consistent with this Directive and the responsibilities and functions in subsection D.I., above, and the authorities in section F., **below**.

4. Operational commanders shall continue to be responsible for the control, location, and safety of deployed accounting and finance personnel and resources.

#### E. RELATIONSHIPS

1. In the performance of assigned responsibilities and functions, the Director, **DFAS**, shall:

a. Maintain liaison with DoD Components, other Government Agencies, foreign governments, and private sector organizations for the **exchange** of information concerning assigned programs, activities, and responsibilities.

b. Use established facilities and services of the Department of Defense and other Federal Agencies, whenever practicable, to avoid duplication and to achieve modernization, efficiency, economy, and **user** satisfaction.

2. The heads of DoD Components shall coordinate with the Director, DFAS, on all matters related to the responsibilities and functions listed in subsection D.I., above.

#### F. AUTHORITIES

The Director, DFAS, is specifically delegated authority to:

1. Represent the C, DoD, on finance and accounting matters.

2. Have free and direct access to, and communicate with, DoD Components and other Executive Departments and Agencies concerning finance and accounting activities, as necessary.

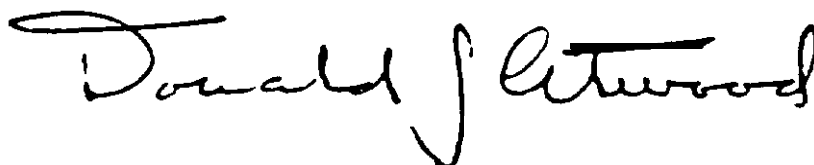
3. Enter into agreements with DoD Components and other Government or Non-Government entities for the effective performance of the DFAS mission and programs.

4. Establish DFAS facilities if needed facilities or services of other DoD Components are not available. Establishment of new facilities and services will be accomplished using normal program and budget processes.

5. Obtain reports, information, advice, and assistance from DoD Components, consistent with the policies and criteria of DoD Directive 7750.5 (reference (e)).

**G. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald J. Atwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and a long, sweeping "A".

Donald J. Atwood  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

**Enclosure**

Delegations of Authority

DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense, and subject to the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense, and in accordance with DoD policies, Directives, and Instructions, the Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), or in the absence of the Director, the person acting for the **Director**, is hereby delegated authority as required in the administration and operation of the DFAS to:

1. Establish advisory committees and employ part-time advisors, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, in support of assigned DFAS functions pursuant to 10 **U.S.C.** 173; **P.L.** 92-463, "Federal Advisory Committee Act"; and DoD Directive 5105.4, "Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committee Management Program," September 5, 1989.

2. Designate any position in the DFAS as a "sensitive" position, in accordance with 5 **U.S.C.** 7532; Executive Order 10450, as amended; and DoD Directive 5200.2, "DoD Personnel Security Program," December 20, 1979, as appropriate.

a. Authorize, in case of an emergency, the appointment to a sensitive position, for a limited period of time, of a person for whom a full field investigation or other appropriate investigation, including the National Agency Check, has not been completed; and

b. Authorize the suspension, but not terminate the service, of an employee in the **interest of** national security.

3. Authorize and approve overtime work for assigned civilian personnel in accordance with 5 **U.S.C.** Chapter 55, Subchapter V, and applicable Office of Personnel Management (**OPM**) regulations.

4. Authorize and approve:

a. Travel for assigned personnel, in accordance with Joint Travel Regulations.

b. Invitational travel to persons serving without compensation whose consultative, advisory, or other services are required for assigned activities and responsibilities pursuant to 5 **U.S.C.** 5703.

5\* Approve the expenditure of funds available for travel by assigned or detailed military personnel for expenses regarding attendance at meetings of technical, scientific, professional, or other similar organizations in such instances when the approval of the Secretary **of** Defense, or designee, is required by law (37 **U.S.C.** 412 and 5 **U.S.C.** 4110 and 4111). This authority cannot be redelegate.

6. Develop, establish, and maintain an active and continuing Records Management Program under DoD Directive 5015.2, "**Records** Management Program," September 17, 1980; DoD Directive 5400.7, "DoD Freedom of Information Act Program," May 13, 1988; and DoD Directive 5400.11, "Department of Defense Privacy Program," June 9, 1982.

7. Establish and use imprest funds for making small purchases of material and services, other than personal services, when it is determined more advantageous and consistent with the best interests of the Government, in accordance with DoD Directive 7360.10, "Disbursing Policies," January 17, 1989.

8. Authorize the publication of advertisements, notices, or proposals, in newspapers, magazines, or other public periodicals as required for the effective administration and operation of assigned responsibilities, consistent with 44 U.S.C. 3702.

9. Establish and maintain appropriate property accounts, appoint Boards of Survey, approve reports of survey, relieve personal liability, and remove accountability for Agency property contained in the authorized property accounts that has been lost, damaged, stolen, destroyed, or otherwise rendered unserviceable, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

10. Promulgate the necessary security regulations for the protection of property placed under the jurisdiction of the Director, pursuant to DoD Directive 5200.8, "Security of Military Installations and Resources," July 29, 1980.

11. Establish and maintain a publications system for the promulgation of common accounting and finance regulations, instructions, and reference documents, and changes thereto, pursuant to the policies and procedures prescribed in DoD 5025.1-M, "Department of Defense Directives System Procedures," April 1981, authorized by DoD Directive 5025.1, December 23, 1988.

12. Exercise the powers vested in the Secretary of Defense by 5 U.S.C. 301, 302(b), and 3101 on the employment, direction, and general administration of assigned employees.

13. Administer oaths of office to those entering the Executive branch of the Federal Government or any other oath required by law in connection with employment therein, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 2903, and designate in writing, as may be necessary, officers and employees of the DFAS to perform this function.

14. Establish a DFAS Incentive Awards Board, and pay cash awards to, and incur necessary expenses for the honorary recognition of, civilian employees of the Government whose suggestions, inventions, superior accomplishments, or other personal efforts, including special acts or services, benefit or affect the DFAS or its subordinate activities, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4503, OPM regulations, and DoD Directive 5120.15, "Authority for Approval of Cash Honorary Awards for DoD Personnel," August 13, 1985.

15. Act as an agent for the collection and payment of employment taxes imposed by Chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; and, as such agent, make all determinations and certifications required or provided for under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C. 3122), and the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(p)(1) and (2)), as amended, on assigned employees.

16. Enter into and administer contracts directly or through a **Military** Department, a DoD contracting administration service component, or other Government Department or Agency, as appropriate, for supplies, equipment, and services required to accomplish the DFAS mission.

17. Oversee disbursing officials and operations in accordance **with** the procedures of 31 U.S.C., as follows:

a. **Manage** the approval and appointment process for disbursing and **certifying** officials pursuant to 31 **U.S.C.** 3321 and 3325.

b. Make determinations and recommendations with respect **to** the granting of relief to disbursing officials pursuant to the authority contained in **31 U.S.C.** 3527.

c. Approve requests to hold cash at personal risk for authorized purposes, including **imprest** funds, and to redelegate such authority as appropriate in the administration and control of DoD funds, consistent with the Treasury Financial Manual (**TFM**) and under the authority of 31 **U.S.C.** 3321 and 3342.

d. Approve DoD Component disbursing regulations developed **to** implement the **TFM** and to grant waivers when delegated by the Secretary of **the** Treasury to heads of Executive Departments and Agencies.

The Director, DFAS may, in writing, redelegate these authorities as appropriate, except as otherwise specifically indicated above **or** as otherwise provided by law or regulation.